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Letter from the Chair of Governors, December 2022

As is customary, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you all to keep you abreast of things and wish you season's greetings.

Governors are surprisingly important people in schools as our responsibilities are wide and various. Our tasks are to examine (anonymously) all the available information to ensure that our school provides the best possible education and support to every member of the organisation. Nothing is left unchecked, from Teaching and Learning through Safeguarding and Welfare to Income and Expenditure.

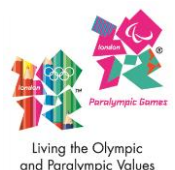
We are terribly lucky to have such a highly skilled and dedicated Governing Body and would like to formally acknowledge the contributions made by Mrs Tracey Moore as a Parent Governor, who, with much sadness, resigned from her role in October. We offer our heartfelt thanks for her useful and highly professional contribution to our board of Governors.

It's not all bad news as I am delighted (really delighted) to welcome Mrs Carly Felstein to our Governing Body and she will join Mr Rob Blackett as our second Parent Governor.

You can find more information on the School Website about the Governors. Regarding the Website, I am currently checking that it is compliant. I must admit that I am impressed by just how much information is available. I highly encourage you to invest some time to ensure you are 'up to date'. We are always looking at ways to improve and there is an exciting new site under construction. The launch date is to be confirmed but will broadly carry the same content but in a more user-friendly way. I know that you have had the opportunity to share your views on the new website via an online survey and by talking to governors on the school playground, and your comments will be carefully considered.

We are also in the final stages of choosing the company who will install our new Early Years outdoor area with new equipment and surfacing. This has taken some time to plan and fund and includes donations made by FOSS over the past few years, for which we are eternally grateful. I am very pleased to advise that the new area should be ready for use by our Barton pupils by April 2023.

Finally, you will know that one of the greatest strengths of our school is its strong community. Not just the pupils but you, the staff and anyone connected with us. Mrs Lovatt-Young is there as a first point of contact in absolute confidence if you, or anyone you know, find yourselves struggling for whatever reason, especially in light of the current economic climate and energy prices. If you would like support with, for example, being directed to a food bank or are finding it challenging to pay for school trips or uniform, please do get in touch with Mrs Lovatt-Young or any member of staff that you feel comfortable talking to. You can assume total



confidentiality and although we do not have all the answers, we are there to help and we can. Of course, one of our governors, the Vicar, Rev. Diane Rees is also available for support and she also regularly take foodbank items to Trinity which can instead be used to support local families directly.

The 2022 SATS results were very much better than National and Kent's averages and whatever the horrible lockdowns caused; the concerns are being fixed rather quicker than I had anticipated. I would like to thank the Staff (as I am sure you would) for looking after your charges with such skill and devotion.

On behalf of all the Governors may I wish you all a joyful Christmas and hope to see you all afterwards, refreshed for what I am sure will be a productive, happy and safe New Year.

Jasper Dale

Chair of Governors. December 2022

